

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSC-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00 OMB-01 L-03 /084 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:CTAYLOR:DC

APPROVED BY AF/S:DKEOGH

-----086013 220327Z /62

P 212024Z OCT 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS STATE 253570

LONDON FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EINV, PINT, SOPN, SF, US

SUBJECT: EXCERPT FROM VORSTER INTERVIEW WITH ABC NEWS

FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM HARRY REASONER INTERVIEW WITH
SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER CARRIED ON ABC
EVENING NEWS OCTOBER 17. FULL INTERVIEW WILL BE CARRIED
ON ABC'S ISSUES AND ANSWERS OCTOBER 23.

PRIOR TO INTERVIEW EXCERPT, REASONER NOTED UPCOMING SOUTH
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AFRICAN ELECTIONS AND THAT VORSTER HAS SAID THAT THE US
HAS APPLIED COVERT ECONOMIC WEIGHT BY LEANING ON US
COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Q. HAVE YOU BEEN CONSCIOUS, OR HAS ANYONE IN THE GOVERNMENT
BEEN CONSCIOUS, OF ANY PRESSURE SO FAR IN TERMS OF
AFFECTING AMERICAN INVESTMENT OR THE BEHAVIOR OF AMERICAN

MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS?

A. VORSTER: YES, UNFORTUNATELY, WE KNOW THAT PRESSURE WAS PUT ON CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS REGARD.

Q. CAN YOU BE SPECIFIC? ARE YOU PREPARED TO NAME ANY NAMES?

A. NO. NATURALLY I'M NOT PREPARED TO BANDY ABOUT NAMES IN THE COURSE OF THIS INTERVIEW. BUT YOU CAN JUST ACCEPT THAT THIS IS THE SITUATION.

Q. HAVE THERE BEEN ACTUAL CASES WHERE YOU MIGHT HAVE ANTICIPATED INVESTMENT WHERE IT HAS NOT COME ABOUT?

A. NO, WE HAVE HAD ACTUAL CASES WHERE PEOPLE HAVE TOLD US STRAIGHT OUT THAT THEY WERE UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE. THE SOVIETS WANT TO KILL US OFF BY FORCE. THE US WANTS TO STRANGLE US WITH FINESSE.

Q. IS THIS A RECENT DEVELOPMENT OR SOMETHING YOU HAVE SEEN COMING FOR SOME TIME?

A. NO, UNFORTUNATELY, IT HAS BEEN COMING FROM JANUARY THIS YEAR.

Q. JANUARY, BY COINCIDENCE, BEING THE INAUGURAL MONTH
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FOR PRESIDENT CARTER.

A. YES, I AM AFRAID THAT IT CAME WITH THE NEW UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

Q. YOU HAVE OFTEN, MR. PRIME MINISTER, SAID THAT OTHER COUNTRIES, PRESUMABLY MEANING THE US, ARE MEDDLING IN THE AFFAIRS OF SOUTH AFRICA. CAN YOU TELL US--BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT -- WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT? ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER OR VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE WHEN HE USED THE EXPRESSION ONE MAN ONE VOTE. OR JUST WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

A. WELL IT ISN'T JUST A QUESTION OF USING THE EXPRESSION OF ONE MAN ONE VOTE. WHAT IN FACT HAPPENED IS WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE MOMENT: THAT THE UNITED STATES IS DEMANDING FROM SOUTH AFRICA THAT WE IN FACT INTRODUCE A SYSTEM OF ONE MAN ONE VOTE. OR TO PUT IT IN OTHER WORDS, YOU INTRODUCE THE SYSTEM OF BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

ACCORDING TO REASONER, VORSTER STATED, IN ANSWER TO

QUESTIONS, THAT THERE COULD BE NO COMPROMISE ON BASIC ISSUES AND THAT IF SOUTH AFRICA HAS TO STAND ALONE IT WILL HAVE TO SURVIVE ALONE. END TEXT.

2. AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING OCTOBER 18 SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON STATEMENTS BY VORSTER THAT THE US SEEKS TO STRANGLE SOUTH AFRICA, OR ON COMMENT BY FONMIN BOTHA THAT THE US SEEKS TO OVERTHROW THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. SPOKESMAN SAID, QUOTE, THE USG DOES NOT SEEK THE "DOWNFALL" OF ANY SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT. IT HAS LONG BEEN OUR VIEW THAT THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA WILL WORSEN UNLESS THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE PRESENT DIRECTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY. I REPEAT THAT WE WANT TO SEE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH ARE ACHIEVED THROUGH NEGOTIATION, WHICH TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE, AND WHICH ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THEM, OR THEY WILL NOT LAST. IN SOUTH AFRICA, WE LOOK FOR STEPS NOW TO BEGIN A PROGRESSIVE TRANSFORMATION AWAY FROM APARTHEID AND TOWARD FULL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS.

THE SPECIFIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT THROUGH WHICH FULL PARTICIPATION COULD BE EXPRESSED IS A MATTER FOR THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO DECIDE. THERE ARE MANY WAYS IN WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS OF ALL SOUTH AFRICANS CAN BE PROTECTED. WE ARE NOT SETTING OUT A BLUEPRINT FOR SOUTH AFRICA, OR A TIMETABLE. BUT WE WANT TO SEE, AT THE END OF AN EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS IN SOUTH AFRICA, ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AND FULL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION. AND WE THINK THAT PROGRESS TOWARDS THESE GOALS WILL HAVE TO BEGIN SOON IF IT IS TO BE ACHIEVED CONSTRUCTIVELY AND PEACEFULLY. END QUOTE.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FULL TEXT OF POGROUND INTERVIEW AS IT APPEARS IN RAND DAILY MAIL. ALSO PLEASE PROVIDE TEXT OF BOTHA BACKGROUNDER ON NAMIBIA BY FLEUR DE VILLIERS IN SUNDAY TIMES, BOTH BY CABLE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, TELEVISION BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE253570
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CTAYLOR:DC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770388-0939
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771031/aaaabakv.tel
Line Count: 159
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 685a6f29-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 823971
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXCERPT FROM VORSTER INTERVIEW WITH ABC NEWS FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM HARRY REASONER INTERVIEW WITH SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER CARRIED ON AB
TAGS: EINV, PINT, SOPN, SF, US, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES), (REASONER, HARRY)
To: PRETORIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/685a6f29-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009